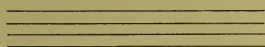


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BOROUGH OF HALESOWEN



ANNUAL REPORTS
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE SANITARY INSPECTOR
FOR 1937



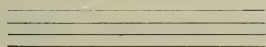
Medical Officer of Health:
T. BRETT YOUNG

Senior Sanitary Inspector:
ERNEST LEA

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HALESOWEN



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Medical Officer of Health:
T. BRETT YOUNG

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ERNEST LEA

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE BOROUGH OF
HALESOWEN.

Mayor:

ALDERMAN JOHN BENJAMIN DOWNING, O.B.E., J.P.
C.C.

Deputy Mayor:

ALDERMAN HERBERT JOHN COX, J.P.

Aldermen:

WILLIAM GREEN, J.P.; CHARLES HENRY HEAD; NORMAN KNOWLES.

Councillors:

CENTRAL WARD:

COUNCILLOR MRS. ETHEL MAY HARRISON; COUNCILLORS FRANCIS
LIONEL ROSE, WILLIAM WHITEHOUSE.

NORTH WARD:

COUNCILLORS HERBERT PARKES, C.C.; JAMES SIVITER; THOMAS
SMITH, C.C.

SOUTH WARD:

COUNCILLORS JOHN HENRY GREEN; LEONARD HARPER, FRED SMART

EAST WARD:

COUNCILLORS WILLIAM EDWARD VERNON HEWIN GUEST; ARTHUR
MARSHALL HARRIS; WILLIAM PAYNE.

WEST WARD:

COUNCILLORS RICHARD GREEN, J.P.; WALTER HODGETTS; CLIFFORD
WILLETTS.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH	T. BRETT YOUNG, M.D., BRUX., M.R.C.S., ENG., L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S.ED.
SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR SHOPS ACT INSPECTOR, CLEANSING SUPERINTENDENT	E. LEA, M.S.I.A., A.M.I.P.C. (Certified Meat & Food Inspector).
ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTORS	R. B. ANDERSON, A.R.S.I. A.I.H. (Resigned 16/7/37). W. WOODWARD, A.R.S.I. M.I.H. (Resigned 10/3/37). G. V. POWELL, A.R.S.I. (Appointed 19/7/37). H. F. O'CONNOR, A.R.S.I. (Appointed (1/9/37).
SENIOR CLERK 	V. M. LAWTON, (Resigned 14/8/37).
CLERK 	W. R. SOUTHALL. F. D. HIPKISS. (Appointed 8/11/37).
PUPIL 	G. H. STONE.
COUNTY ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER FOR TUBERCULOSIS	DR. S. DEANER.

Health Visitors, School Nurses, Tuberculosis Nurses, etc.
Administered by the County of Worcester.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND MEMBERS OF THE
HALESOWEN BOROUGH COUNCIL.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my forty-third Annual Report upon the state of the public health in the Borough of Halesowen for the year 1937.

There have been four changes in the staff of the department.

The resident population at midsummer 1937 was estimated to be 35,150, this being an increase of 780 over the year 1936.

It may be stated that the general health of the District was satisfactory and that our statistics compare very favourably with those of England and Wales and those of similar districts. There were 176 more births than deaths.

The infant mortality rate was 57.00 compared with 63.03 for the previous year.

As regards the Sanitary Circumstances of the Area, there has again been a steady improvement. Few Privy Middens now remain in the District. The Senior Sanitary Inspector and his Staff have again spent a great deal of their time on Housing and the work of rehousing the persons from houses which have been condemned is proceeding apace.

The Refuse Collection and Disposal was very satisfactorily carried out under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector and still continues to be one of the most efficient and least costly systems in the country.

In conclusion I thank the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee for the consideration they have given to all matters appertaining to the health of the District and hope to have your continued support.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

T. BRETT YOUNG,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

The area of the district is ... 5,247 acres

Population, Census 1921 : ... 28,212

Population, Census 1931 : ... 31,058

Estimated resident population, 1937 ... 35,150

The number of inhabited houses in 1921 was 5,533

The number of inhabited houses in 1937 was 10,201

The total reduced rateable value at 31st December,
1937 was £132,580.

The sum represented by a 1d. Rate equals £453/13/1.

The population is largely industrial and the industries are very varied. The principal industries comprise brick making, ordinary fireclay and terra cotta, chain and spike making of all kinds, tube and tube fittings of all kinds, steel making, gun barrel making, spade and shovel making, iron forgings, bedstead and mattress making, bicycles, perambulators, iron castings shoe, heel and tip making, wall-tie making, spelter refining, paint and varnish making, coal mining, and also electrical work.

For the most part, none of the occupations, carried on under proper conditions, are unhealthy.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS:			Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	...	...	544	271	273
Illegitimate	...	...	9	5	4
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population					15.73

STILL BIRTHS:			Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	...	...	27	18	9
Illegitimate	...	...	0	0	0
Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births				...	46.5

DEATHS:			Total	Males	Females
			377	196	181
Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population					10.72

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES:			Rate per 1,000
		Deaths	Total Births
			(Live and Still Births)
Puerperal Sepsis	...	0	0.00
Other Puerperal Causes		0	0.00
Total	...	...	0.00

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR:				
All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...		57.00
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births				59.6
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	0.00
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil.
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	2 males
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	2 males

It will be seen from the above statement that the birth rate for the year 1937 was 15.73 compared with 16.77 for 1936. The birth rate for England and Wales was 14.9. The death rate was 10.72 compared with 12.4 for England and Wales.

TABLE I.
CAUSES OF DEATH IN HALESOWEN BOROUGH.
1937.

CAUSES OF DEATH:					Male.	Female.
	All causes	...	...	...	196	181
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	...	...	...	—	—
2.	Measles	...	...	...	—	—
3.	Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	—	—
4.	Whooping Cough	...	...	...	2	—
5.	Diphtheria	...	...	...	1	2
6.	Influenza	...	...	...	5	5
7.	Encephalitis Lethargica	...	...	...	—	1
8.	Cerebro Spinal Fever	...	...	...	—	—
9.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...	...	12	8
10.	Other Tuberculosis Diseases	...	...	...	2	4
11.	Syphilis	...	...	...	—	—
12.	General Paralysis of insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	...	—	1
13.	Cancer Malignant Diseases	...	...	...	32	29
14.	Diabetes	...	...	...	1	2
15.	Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	11	10
16.	Heart Disease	...	...	...	40	38
17.	Aneurysm	...	...	...	—	1
18.	Other Circulatory Diseases	...	...	...	4	5
19.	Bronchitis	...	...	...	11	10
20.	Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	13	15
21.	Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	3	3
22.	Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	6	1
23.	Diarrhœa etc., under 2 years	...	...	...	2	—
24.	Appendicitis	...	...	...	2	2
25.	Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	1	—
26.	Other Diseases of Liver etc.	...	...	...	—	—
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	7	3
28.	Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	4	3
29.	Puerperal Sepsis	...	...	...	—	—
30.	Other Puerperal Causes	...	...	...	—	—
31.	Congenital Debility, and Malformations, Premature Birth etc	...	...	...	10	10
32.	Senility	...	...	...	6	8
33.	Suicide	...	...	...	5	2
34.	Other Violence	...	...	...	4	4
35.	Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	12	13
36.	Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	—	1
Special cases included in No. 35 above:—						
	Small-pox	...	...	...	—	—
	Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	...	...	...	—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year. Total					18	15
	Legitimate	...	...	...	18	15
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—
Live Births Total					276	277
	Legitimate	...	...	...	271	273
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	5	4
Still Births Total					18	9
	Legitimate	...	...	...	18	9
	Illegitimate	...	...	...	—	—
Resident Population						35,150

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(i) PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

The Staff of the Health Department is given on page three.

(ii) (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES.

This work is carried out at the Worcester County Laboratory by the County Analyst.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Council provide two Ambulances for use in case of Accidents which necessitate the removal of Patients, and also for conveying non-infectious cases to or from Hospital. During the year these Ambulances conveyed 2,319 cases to or from Hospital and gave assistance at 39 accidents, altogether travelling a distance of 17,966 miles. In addition to these Ambulances several of the larger firms in the District maintain Ambulances of their own for the use of their work people.

As regards Infectious cases the North Worcestershire Joint Isolation Hospital Committee provide 2 Ambulances which are kept at the Isolation Hospital, to deal with these cases.

In my opinion the Ambulance facilities available in the District are at the present time quite adequate to meet all requirements.

(d) CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

The following Clinics and Treatment Centres are available for the District :—

NAME	SITUATION	SESSIONS
Halesowen Maternity and Child Welfare.	Congregational Hall, Hagley Road, Halesowen.	Every Tuesday 2-0 p.m.
Cradley Maternity and Child Welfare.	Chapel, High Street, Cradley.	Every Monday 2-0 p.m.
Hill and Cakemore Maternity and Child Welfare.	Chapel, Long Lane, Hill and Cakemore.	Every Wednesday.
Halesowen Ante-Natal Clinic.	Congregational Hall, Hagley Road, Halesowen.	1st and 3rd Friday 2-0 p.m.
Cradley Ante-Natal Clinic.	Chapel, High Street, Cradley.	1st and 3rd Wednesday 2-0 p.m.
Hill and Cakemore Ante-Natal Clinic.	Chapel, Long Lane, Hill and Cakemore.	Every Wednesday 10 a.m.

(e) HOSPITALS.

There has been no change in the Hospital facilities during the year. The following Hospitals are available for the district.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Tuberculosis (under the direction of the County Medical Officer of Health).

The Tuberculosis Pavilion at Hayley Green consists of one block containing 17 beds.

There are 3 single shelters.

Total accommodation 20 beds.

This accommodation is used jointly by the North Worcestershire Joint Hospital Committee.

MATERNITY.

Provision for this is also under the direction of the County Medical Officer of Health and arrangements exist for consultations with Specialists, and if necessary removal of patients to special Institutions in the City of Birmingham and Stourbridge.

Serious cases of illness and injury needing special treatment and major operations are sent to Birmingham and other local Hospitals.

During the year 34 cases were removed to Maternity Hospitals free of charge by the Council's Ambulances.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

This Hospital is provided by the North Worcestershire Joint Hospital Committee.

The Hospital is situate at Hayley Green in the Halesowen Borough.

The accommodation is as follows:—

20	beds	and	2	cots	for	Scarlet	Fever.
18	„	„	2	„	„	Diphtheria.	
4	„	„	2	„	„	Enteric	Fever.

SMALL POX.

The Small Pox Hospital is situated at Lutley and contains accommodation for 12 patients, 6 male and 6 female.

No need has arisen for its use during 1937.

GENERAL HOSPITALS.

The Halesowen Cottage Hospital which is supported by voluntary contributions does a great deal of useful work for the district. There are 28 beds; 10 male, 10 female, 5 cots, 3 private beds.

(f) LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

The following Acts are in force in the District:—

Public Health Act Amendment Act 1890 (Parts II, III, IV and V)	14/9/1925.
(as amended by the Public Health Act, 1936).	
Public Health Amendment Act 1907, Section 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 22, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33, comprised in Part II	16/4/1910.
Sections 53 and 54 comprised in Part IV	do.
Section 95 comprised in Part X	do.
Section 21 comprised in Part II, in the contributory places of Cakemore, Cradley, Halesowen, Hasbury, Hawne and Hill	do.
Public Health Act 1925, Part II	10/2/1926.
Model Byelaws with respect to nuisances, common lodging houses, house refuse, offensive trades, slaughter-houses, tents, vans, sheds, and new streets, buildings, and houses let in lodgings ...	

(iii) MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

This work is conducted under the direction of the County Medical Officer of Health.

There are three centres in the Borough of Halesowen, one at Halesowen, one at Cradley and one at Hill and Cakemore.

Each centre is open weekly and attended by an assistant County Medical Officer of Health, two Health Visitors and Voluntary Helpers, all new cases are seen and examined by the Medical Officer in attendance.

Cases of congenital defects, which are considered to be remediable by surgical means, and all surgical cases, are referred to Hospital.

Efforts are made to endeavour to impress mothers with the very great importance of breast feeding, both from an economic and physiological point of view.

Much importance is attached to visiting as often as possible infants under one year, both to instruct and encourage parents to persevere with and use the advice which they are given at the meetings of the centre.

With regard to the three Welfare Centres the average weekly attendances are still on the increase.

In addition to the three Welfare Centres in the District there is one School Clinic and one Tuberculosis Dispensary; all provided and supervised by the Worcestershire County Council.

There is no special provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children, apart from the Wordsley and Kidderminster Poor Law Institutions.

The number of cases applying to the Relieving Officer for various forms of relief during the year was as follows:—

		Institutional Relief	Domiciliary Relief	Medical Relief
Totals	...	97	470	139

COMMITTEE:

Alderman C. H. Head ,, ,, ,,

Councillor J. Siviter ,, ,, ,,

Councillor Mrs. Harrison ,, ,, ,,

„ „ M. Rose „ „

„ „ G. Green „ „

H. Parkes

Mrs. A. J. Grove (Co-opted Member)

Mrs. T. Kite ,, ,,

Mrs. H. Willetts „ „

Dr. S. Deaner.

Dr. H. Gordon Smith.

S. J. Whitehouse, Esq.

Mr. Ernest Lea, the Chief Sanitary Inspector continued as Honorary Secretary.

The Committee dealt with a number of cases with the following results:—

A Food Allowance was granted in 5 cases.

Rent relief was not necessary in any case.

6 families were rehoused so as to allow the patient to have a separate bedroom.

CASES DEALT WITH DURING 1937.

Food Allowances Granted	Rent Relief Granted	Cases recommended for Rehousing	Rehoused	Special Nursing
5	Nil	6	6	1

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

- (1) (i) WATER. Water is supplied to the whole of the District by the South Staffordshire Water Works Co., and a constant and sufficient supply is maintained. 10,268 houses in the District are supplied by the Company, leaving very few houses to obtain their supplies from wells or other sources.
- (ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. The whole of the District is efficiently sewered and most of the houses have water closets. All sewage is dealt with by the Upper Stour Valley Main Drainage Board at their sewage farms of over 600 acres at Whittington. No complaints as to the working of sewers came to my notice during the year.
- (2) RIVERS AND STREAMS. Approximately two and a half miles of the River Stour runs through the District, practically 2 miles forming the boundary with adjoining districts. No action has been taken with regard to pollution of the river, but a careful watch is being kept in co-operation with the County Council.
- (3) (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. During the year, 3 privy middens have been converted to closets on the fresh water carriage system, the total of new water closets installed in the District being 14 and there are now approximately 31 houses in the District where privy middens still exist, and 9 houses with pail closets.

Of the 31 houses at which privy middens still exist, demolition orders are pending, in most cases, whilst for 25 of the houses there is no sewer or water under pressure yet available.

(ii) **PUBLIC CLEANSING.** No outstanding changes have taken place during the year. This branch of the work is under the supervision of the Senior Sanitary Inspector who deals with this subject more fully in his report. I might add however that this service is carried out in a very efficient manner and very few complaints are received.

(iii) **SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.**

Appended herewith is a table showing the number and nature of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors Department during 1937.

(iv) **SMOKE ABATEMENT.** Four complaints as to Smoke nuisances were received. These complaints were investigated in each case and the matter dealt with in a satisfactory manner.

(4) **SCHOOLS.** The general sanitary conditions and water supply of the Schools in the district are satisfactory. The water closets, urinals etc. are inspected by the Sanitary Inspector periodically.

17 Certificates were given for the exclusion of Scholars suffering from the various Infectious Diseases and 27 Certificates to those Scholars who had been in contact with the patient.

It was found necessary to close the Infants' Department of Holt Road Council School from 1st February to 12th February, 1937 owing to the prevalence of Influenza.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

During 1937 visits were paid to 69 Shops in connection with the Shops Acts of 1934.

SWIMMING BATH AND POOLS.

There is only one swimming bath in the district and the Borough Council are allowed the use of it and conduct it as a public swimming bath for the inhabitants of the district. There are two basins one 48-ft. 0-ins. × 46-ft. 0-ins., and the other 73-ft. 0-ins. × 112-ft. 0-ins.

The water supply is from a spring which has a constant flow even in exceptionally dry weather.

NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE
BY THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT
DURING THE YEAR 1937.

NATURE.	Primary Visits.	Re-visits.
Infectious Disease Prevention ...	38	63
Houses (Housing Act, 1936) ...	171	533
Conversions of Privy Middens ...	3	11
Ashpits ...	15	32
Dust Bins ...	33	37
Tents, Vans and Sheds ...	68	238
Drains ...	413	243
Slaughterhouses (Meat Inspection) ...	1120	—
Offensive Trades ...	34	142
Factory and Workshops ...	72	41
Food Premises ...	79	—
Houses let in Lodgings and Lodging Houses ...	73	—
Schools ...	9	23
Picture Houses ...	3	73
Dirty Houses ...	2	2
Bakehouses ...	22	88
Dairies and Cowsheds ...	12	—
Petroleum Stores ...	77	61
Keeping of Animals ...	8	14
Smoke ...	4	9
Milk Samples ...	20	—
Yards and Passages ...	43	64
Offensive Accumulations ...	5	14
Water Closets ...	27	31
Verminous Houses ...	92	167
Miscellaneous ...	322	—
Refuse Disposal Tips ...	159	—
Shops Acts ...	115	—
Interviews ...	963	—
Houses (Housing Act 1935) Measurements for Overcrowding ...	227	—
TOTAL	4229	1886

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1937
for the Borough of Halesowen on the administration of the
Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with
FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

1.—INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES,
including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or
Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries)	19	2	—
Workshops (including Work- shop Laundries) ...	51	1	—
Workplaces (other than Out- workers' premises) ...	2	—	—
Total	72	3	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Particulars. (1)	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which Prose- cutions were instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of cleanliness ...	2	2	—	—
Other nuisances ...	2	2	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation:—				
Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—
Total	5 //	5 //	—	—

HOUSING.

As will be seen from the following particulars, a considerable amount of the time of the department has been occupied in dealing with houses under the Housing Act, 1936. The following houses were completed during the course of the year.

By Local Authority	292
By private enterprise	317

PARTICULARS OF WORK CARRIED OUT IN RESPECT OF HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:—
 - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 764
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 1187
 - (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 171
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 533
 - (3) Number of dwelling-houses found in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 131
 - (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... 40
2. Remedy of defects during the year without Service of formal notices:—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... 10

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

A—Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	31
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:		
(a) By owners	... ..	13
(b) By local authority in default of owners		Nil

B—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	151
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:		
(a) By owners	... ..	71
(b) By local authority in default of owners		Nil

C—Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	114
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	108

D—Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	... ..	5
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	... ..	Nil

HOUSING (*continued*).

7. HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART IV—OVERCROWDING.

(a) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the					
end of the year	...	...	..	...	529
Number of families dwelling therein	...	...			795
Number of persons dwelling therein	...	...			2635
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported					
during the year	...	...	...	..	6
(c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during					
the year	...	...	...	...	42
Number of persons concerned in such cases	...				168
(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses					
have again become overcrowded after the Local					
Authority have taken steps for the abatement of					
overcrowding	...	...	...	...	Nil.
(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding					
conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health					
may consider it desirable to report					
...	...				Nil

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

There are 35 registered farms in the District. The number of cows producing Milk is approximately 217. The number of Licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Order 1936 is as follows:—

	Pasteurised	Accredited	Tuberculin Tested
Bottlers	... 1	1	—
Retailers	... 3	5	3
Producers	... 1	1	—

During the year 8 Dairies and Cowsheds were inspected and recorded and regular inspections made at the pasteurised Milk producers' premises.

17 samples of designated and other Milks were taken for bacterial content. The results of the examinations, carried out by the County Analyst, are given in the following table, and in all *but* *two* cases proved to be satisfactory.

MILK—Results of Bacteriological Examinations during the year.

Designation.		Methylene Blue Test	Coliform Bacilli present in 1/100 c.c.
Tuberculin Tested	10th March	Satisfactory	Nil
	14th April	"	"
	26th May	Discoloured in 3 hours	"
	7th June	Satisfactory	"
	14th July	"	"
	10th Aug.	"	"
	16th Sept.	"	"
	6th Oct.	"	"
	28th Oct.	"	"
Accredited	26th May	"	"
	10th Aug.	"	"
	16th Sept.	"	"
	28th Oct.	"	"
	28th Oct.	"	"
		Micro-organisms per c.c. (max. allowed 100,000 per c.c.)	Coliform Bacilli present in 1/100 c.c.
Pasteurised	10th March	5000	present in 1/100 c.c.
	14th July	8000	absent in 1 c.c.
	6th Oct.	2000	absent in 1/10 c.c.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are 15 Private Slaughterhouses in use in the District, 11 of these being registered and 4 licenced. 1120 visits were paid to these Slaughterhouses during the year, defects being found and remedied at 2 of them. Particulars of the amount of meat and other foods found to be unfit for human consumption are given below.

The following are the total number of animals slaughtered in the District during the year.

Beasts (inc. calves)	Sheep (inc. lambs)	Pigs				
2,002	8,202	2,520				
			T. C. Q. lbs.			
Amount voluntarily surrendered as unfit for						
Human Consumption	...	...	...	1 13	3	5
Amount seized as unfit for Human						
Consumption						Nil
Total amount destroyed	...	...	...	1 13	3	5

Cases of Animals affected with Tuberculosis:—

Oxen	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Pigs	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

19 butchers' shops and stalls were inspected regularly during the course of the year and the provisions of the Meat Regulations (1924) were applied.

(c) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

This work is done by the County Analyst and Bacteriologist at the County Laboratories, Worcester.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. killed (if known)	1666	126	210	8202	2520
No. Inspected	1042	66	165	6741	1964

ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.

Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	4	Nil
Carcases of which some part of organ was condemned	134	9	Nil	276	17
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	12.86%	13.6%	—	4.1%	0.87%

TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.

Whole carcasses condemned	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	44	7	Nil	Nil	33
Percentage of the No. inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.03%	10.6%	—	—	1.6%

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

		Infested.	Disinfested.
(1)	No. of Council Houses	Nil	Nil
	„ „ other houses	17	17
(2)	All houses found to be infested are sprayed with a suitable insecticide. Where the infestation is extensive, wall paper and woodwork are removed and plaster hacked off if necessary.		
(3)	All tenants' furniture and bed-clothing is examined and if necessary sprayed or steam disinfested.		
(4)	All work is done by the Local Authority.		
(5)	Tenants in new houses are visited periodically to see that the house is kept clean.		

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

SMALL POX.

No cases of Small Pox were notified during the year. The following are the Vaccination Statistics for the year 1937.

Successful Vaccinations	...	...	101
Statutory Declarations	..	...	283
Postponement Declarations	...	...	3
Insusceptibility	...	...	2
Left District (No trace)	...	...	11
Died (Before Vaccination)	...	...	15

DIPHTHERIA.

During the year 15 cases of Diphtheria were notified, which was exactly half the number of the previous year. There were 3 deaths from this disease. 14 of the cases notified were removed to the Hospital at Hayley Green. A supply of Diphtheria Anti-Toxin is kept and supplied to the Medical Practitioners when required.

Diphtheria Immunisation has been carried on during the year, and 332 children were dealt with. This brings the total number of children immunised to approximately 1,632 which I think is a very good response in a district of this population.

The following table gives the Wards where Diphtheria cases occurred and the month in which they were notified.

	Halesowen	Hasbury	Hawne	Hill and Cakemore	Cradley	Illey Lapal Lutley	Total
January	...	—	1	—	—	—	2
February	...	—	1	—	—	—	1
March	...	—	1	—	—	—	1
April	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
May	...	—	—	—	2	—	2
June	...	—	—	—	2	—	2
July	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
August	...	—	—	—	1	—	1
September	...	—	1	—	3	—	4
October	...	1	—	—	—	—	1
November	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
December	...	1	—	—	—	—	1
Total	2	4	1	—	8	—	15

SCARLET FEVER.

25 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year, and of these 17 were removed to Hayley Green Hospital. No deaths occurred from this disease during the year. In some cases where Isolation is available, patients are allowed to stay at home, but where proper conditions do not exist, the patients are recommended to be removed to Hospital. Disinfectant is supplied to all home cases, and when the patient has been certified by the Doctor attending, as free from infection, general disinfection of the rooms and bedding is carried out, and where cases are taken to Hospital disinfection is carried out immediately after the patient has been removed.

The number of cases notified during the year shows a decrease of 5 on the previous year. The cases continue to be of a mild nature. As in the case of Diphtheria, a table is given below showing the months in which the cases were notified, together with the Ward in which the case occurred.

	Halesowen	Hasbury	Hawne	Hill and Cakemore	Cradley	Illey Lapal Lutley	Total
January ...	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
February ...	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
March ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
April ...	—	—	—	1	2	1	4
May ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
June ...	—	1	—	—	1	—	2
July ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
August ...	—	—	—	2	3	—	5
September ...	—	—	—	2	—	—	2
October ...	—	2	—	—	—	1	3
November ...	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
December ...	—	—	—	3	—	—	3
Total ...	—	5	—	11	7	2	25

ERYSIPELAS.

19 cases of this disease occurred, there being an increase of 3 on 1936.

ENCEPHALITIS LETHARGICA.

No cases of this disease were notified.

ENTERIC FEVER.

No cases of this disease were notified.

INFLUENZA.

This disease is not notifiable in this district and therefore no records as to the number of persons suffering from Influenza are available. There were 10 death from this cause, an increase of 6 on the previous year.

PNEUMONIA.

There was a decrease in the number of cases of Pneumonia notified there being 48 cases notified during the year as compared with 73 for the previous year. The number of deaths recorded was 28, this being 5 more than for the year 1936.

PUERPERAL PYREXIA AND PUERPERAL FEVER.

These diseases, when notified, are communicated immediately to the County Medical Officer, who is responsible for dealing with these cases. During the year, 1 case of Puerperal Pyrexia, and 2 cases of Puerperal Fever were notified, and no deaths recorded from Puerperal Causes.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The work in connection with Tuberculosis is carried out by the Worcestershire County Council. Copies of notifications received are forwarded to the County Medical Officer every week. During the year, 49 new cases were notified, consisting of 34 Pulmonary cases and 15 Non-Pulmonary cases, and 26 deaths were recorded consisting of 20 Pulmonary and 6 Non-Pulmonary cases.

Table V gives the figures required by the Ministry of Health.

No grounds for action under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations and Section 62 of the Public Health Act 1925 have arisen.

TABLE II.

The following Table gives the age incidence of the Notifiable Diseases.

Disease.	Total Cases.	Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	65 yrs. to Hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	25	—	1	2	2	4	7	4	2	2	1	—	17	—
Diphtheria ...	15	—	2	—	—	1	6	1	2	3	—	—	14	3
Pneumonia ...	48	3	2	1	2	1	5	2	—	13	1	13	—	28
Puerperal Fever	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	19	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	2	2	1	9	2	—
Ophthalmia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Neonatorum	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Small Pox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	112	5	6	3	5	6	18	8	7	22	3	22	7	31

TABLE III.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during 1937.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Cases notified in whole District at ages, years.								Total Cases notified in each locality.								
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 35.	35 and under 45.	45 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Hill and Cakemore	Cradley.	Halesowen.	Hasbury.	Hawne.	Illey.	Lapal.	Lutley.	Total Cases removed to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever	25	—	9	11	4	1	—	—	11	7	—	5	—	—	2	—	17
Diphtheria	15	—	3	7	5	—	—	—	—	8	2	4	1	—	—	—	14
Pneumonia	48	3	6	7	13	1	13	5	10	18	8	10	—	2	—	—	—
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	19	—	2	1	4	1	9	2	—	7	3	5	2	—	2	—	—
Puerperal Fever	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis	31	—	—	1	22	2	5	1	4	9	9	4	1	—	4	—	—
Other forms of Tubercular Disease	10	—	1	2	5	1	1	—	4	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Polyomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	153	5	21	29	56	6	28	8	32	51	26	30	4	2	8	—	31

TABLE IV.
OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Notified	Cases Treated At Home	In Hospital	Vision Unimpaired	Impaired Vision	Blindness Total	Deaths
2	2	0	2	0	0	0

TABLE V.
TUBERCULOSIS.
Table of New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

Age.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2
5—15	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
15—25	7	8	1	4	4	5	1	—
25—35	3	4	—	—	1	2	—	—
35—45	—	2	—	1	4	—	—	—
45—55	3	1	1	—	1	1	—	—
55—65	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 up	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals	16	15	4	6	12	8	2	4

TABLE VI.

BIRTH RATES, DEATH RATES AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY IN THE YEAR 1937.

Provisional Figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1937, but those for London and the Towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1936.

	Rates per 1000 population.		Annual Death Rate per 1000 population.								Rates per 1000 Live Births.		
	Live Births.	Still Births.	All Causes.	Typhoid and Para-Typhoid Fevers.	Small Pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under two years).	Total Deaths under one year.
England & Wales { 125 C'ty Boroughs and Great Towns including London 148 Smaller Towns (estimated resident population 25,000 —50000 at Census 1931)	14.9	0.60	12.4	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.04	0.07	0.45	0.54	5.8	58
	14.9	0.67	12.5	0.01	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.04	0.08	0.39	0.45	7.9	62
London ... HALESOWEN BOROUGH ...	15.3	0.64	11.9	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.01	0.03	0.05	0.42	0.42	3.2	55
...	13.3	0.54	12.3	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.06	0.05	0.38	0.51	12.0	60
...	15.7	0.77	10.7	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.08	0.28	0.42	3.6	33

TABLE VII.
INFANT MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1937.
Deaths from stated causes at various ages under '1 year.

CAUSES OF DEATH:	Under 1 week	1 and under 2 weeks	2 and under 3 weeks	3 and under 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 and under 6 months	6 and under 9 months	9 and under 12 months	Total
All Causes: Certified and Uncertified	16	—	2	—	18	6	1	5	3	33
Pneumonia	1	—	—	—	1	2	—	3	2	8
Prematurity	7	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	7
Asphyxia	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	3
Intra Cranial Hæmorrhage	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Debility from Birth	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Abnormalities	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	3
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Neo Natal Hæmorrhagia	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Heart	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Tubercular Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Gastro Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Idiopathic Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Bacterial Endocarditis	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Cardiac Failures	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Icterus Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Icterus Gravis	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Septicaemia	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Totals	16	—	2	—	18	6	1	5	3	33

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1937.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Members of the Halesowen Borough Council.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report and the statistics of work carried out in my department during the year 1937, and I beg to thank the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee for the consideration they have given to all matters appertaining to the health of the district and hope to have their continued support.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

ERNEST LEA,

Senior Sanitary
Inspector.

HOUSING.

The greater portion of the work carried out by my department has been on Housing. The majority of the inspections carried out have been houses, scheduled for demolition under Section '11 of the Housing Act, 1936 and the Measurement of Houses for overcrowding and this being so, a great amount of work followed in the preparation of detailed reports on the condition of these houses the service of the various notices required by Section 11 and in most cases by meeting the owners or their representatives at the houses under consideration.

No appeals to the County Court were made against any of the 114 Demolition Orders made, and this in my opinion tends to show that in most cases the owners were of the same opinion as the Council, that the houses could not be rendered fit for human habitation at a reasonable cost.

The re-housing of the displaced persons is also supervised by my department and I am of the opinion that the work carried out on their behalf is fully appreciated by the persons so displaced.

A summary of the work carried out on " Housing " is included in the Medical Officer's Report and also in the summary at the end of this report.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year 38 visits were paid to houses to investigate cases of Infectious Disease. Altogether 55 houses were disinfected following various notifiable diseases. All infected bedding was removed to the Hayley Green Isolation Hospital and was dealt with by means of the steam disinfectant. In all cases of Infectious Disease, disinfectant fluid is supplied free of charge.

SALE OF DISINFECTANTS.

During 1937 there were 2,235 tins of disinfectant sold at a penny per tin and 324 tins at twopence per tin, the amount collected being £12/0/3.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK. The standard of cleanliness of Milk supplied in the District appears from the number of samples taken to be very satisfactory. There are 35 registered Farms in the District with approximately 217 cows producing Milk. In all 20 samples of Milk were taken for examination by the County Analyst, the results of which are given in the Medical Officer's Report.

The practice of taking samples of Milk for Bacteriological examination and of testing for cleanliness would appear to have had some effect as no really high counts were obtained during the year.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. With regard to the inspection of Meat and Foods as I have stated in my previous Annual Reports, the class of cattle slaughtered in this district is very good and very little difficulty is experienced in getting unfit food surrendered. Every effort is made to ensure that all Meat is inspected but owing to the irregular hours of slaughtering throughout the District it is at times very difficult to inspect same. I have, however, the co-operation of the majority of the Butchers, who notify me immediately they suspect that they have any unfit food on their premises.

BAKE HOUSES.

There are 22 Bake houses in the District all of which were visited during the course of the year. No defects were found.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

There are 82 licences in force to store Petroleum Spirit and 5 licences to store Carbide of Calcium. These licences authorise the storage of 245,721 gallons of Petroleum Spirit and 32,512 lbs. of Carbide of Calcium.

The sum of £58 0s. 0d. was collected in respect of these licences.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There is only one registered Common Lodging House in the District. This is visited periodically.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

There are 294 Factories and Workshops on the Register. Six lists of Outworkers were received from other authorities. In the course of the year 97 visits were made to Factories and Workshops. 6 complaints were received from H.M. Inspector of Factories during the year and dealt with satisfactorily.

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC.

68 Movable Dwellings and Caravans were observed during the year. Altogether 583 visits were paid in respect of these and 20 were dealt with as insanitary.

CONVERSION OF PRIVIES TO WATER CLOSETS AND ASHPITS TO DUST BINS.

Three privy middens were converted to closets on the fresh water carriage system. In connection with these conversions 7 visits were paid. These conversions are, where necessary, combined with the laying on of water to each individual house.

In addition to these conversions Dust Bins were installed in place of 3 Ashpits. This leaves very few Ashpits remaining in the District. These dust bins are emptied once per week whereas the ashpits were only emptied once in every three months.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

There have been no changes of any importance in this service during the year. The system works very smoothly and no complaints are received. All dust bins are emptied weekly and every effort is made to carry out the work in such a manner as to create as little dust as possible. Trade refuse is collected and disposed of when requested, a charge being made to cover the cost.

All refuse is collected by means of five Morris Commercial Refuse Vehicles fitted with metal sliding covers. 19 men are engaged on Cleansing, consisting of 5 Drivers, 11 Loaders, 3 men on Tips.

The refuse is disposed of by "Controlled Tipping" on three Tips, one of which is rented and two owned by the Council. There is an abundance of good ash from burnt out coal mining tips available on each of these Tips. The tipping on the Tips owned by the Council is proceeding on carefully planned lines with the object that at some future date a recreation ground will be available from these sites.

Both the collection of waste paper and the salvaging of goods are proving a success from a financial point of view and also from the fact that the Tips will have a longer life.

With regard to the cost of Public Cleansing, it will be observed from the appended table that the total cost for twelve months ending 31st December, 1937 was £3707/16/0. It is also interesting to note that the cost per house per annum was 7/3 or 7.25d. per house per month, whilst approximately ~~9459~~
9799 tons of Refuse was collected.

PUBLIC CLEANSING COSTS.

Cost of Refuse Collection and Disposal for year ending
31st December, 1937.

	COLLECTION						DISPOSAL.		
	Including Depreciation.			Excluding Depreciation.					
	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Gross Expenditure ...	3149	18	3	2990	18	3	557	17	9
Gross Income ...		10	12	0		10	12	0	99 0 5
Net Expenditure ...	3139	6	3	2980	6	3	458	17	4
Net cost per ton ...			6	3.8		6	0.9		0 11.2
Net cost per 1000 houses ...	307	13	11	292	3	2	44	18	2
Net cost per 1000 of the population ...		89	6	1		84	5	11	13 0 7
Total Tons collected—9,799.				Total cost—£3,707 16s. 0d.					
Cost per house per annum—7/3d. or 7.25d. per house per month.									

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT OF SANITARY WORK
COMPLETED IN THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st,
1937.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of houses and schools disinfected after notifiable disease	55
Lots of bedding, clothing etc. disinfected or destroyed	59
Compensation paid for destruction	Nil
Cases of illegal exposure reported (P.H. Act, 1936 Section 148)	Nil

Houses.

Number of houses erected by Private enterprise ...	317
Number of houses erected by Local Authority ...	292
Houses inspected: General Inspections	764
Number recorded under Housing Reg.	171
Number recorded as unfit for habitation	131
Number of houses demolished	108
Number of houses in which notices were served to execute Repairs under Section 9 Housing Act, 1936	31
Number of houses in which the work was executed by the Local Authority	Nil
Dirty houses dealt with	Nil
Cases of overcrowding abated	42
Yards paved or re-paved	5

MOVABLE DWELLINGS, CARAVANS, ETC.

Number observed	68
Number of convictions	Nil
Number dealt with as insanitary	20

HOUSE DRAINAGE.

Number laid or relaid, trapped, ventilated and repaired	26
Number of obstructed drains dealt with	344
Number of house drains tested	16
Number of insanitary lavatories, sinks and urinals rectified	27

WATER CLOSETS.

Number of privy or pail conversions including additional W.C.'s	14
Number of defective W.C.'s remedied	7
Number of slop closets converted into W.C.'s with fresh water flush	3
Number of additional water closets put in	11

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Number under observation	34
Number improperly conducted	Nil
Number newly established with consent of the Council	1

WATER SUPPLY.

Number of wells sunk	Nil
Number of wells cleansed and repaired	Nil
Number of wells closed as polluted	Nil
Number of houses supplied from works during the year	787
Number of samples of water for analysis	1
Number of houses with contaminated or deficient water supply dealt with	4

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Public Slaughter Houses	Nil
Number registered (Private)	11
Number licensed (Private)	4
Number of contraventions of byelaws or defects found	2
Cases of slaughtering on unlicensed premises reported	Nil
Number of Inspections	1120

MILK AND DAIRIES.

Number of registered farms in the area	...	...	35
Total number of Retailers in district	...	...	121
Number of Licences under Milk (Special Designations)	...	...
Order	...	...	11
Approximate number of milking cows in the district	...	...	217
Number of shops where milk is sold	...	...	45

CANAL BOATS.

Number of boats on register	...	...	...	Nil
Number inspected	...	...	...	Nil

LODGING HOUSES.

Number on register	...	...	...	...	1
Number of inspections	...	...	...	...	53
Number of contraventions of Bye-laws or defects found	...	...	...	...	4

FOOD.

Number of seizures as unfit for consumption	...	Nil
Amount voluntarily surrendered as unfit for human consumption	1 ton, 13 cwts., 3 qrs., 5 lbs.	
Amount destroyed as unfit for human consumption	1 ton, 13 cwts., 3 qrs., 5 lbs.	
Cases of animals affected with Tuberculosis:		
Oxen	...	3
Pigs	...	Nil

RATS AND MICE (DESTRUCTION) ACT.

Cases dealt with	Nil
------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

NUISANCES ARISING FROM DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

Number of cases of removal after inspection	...	6
---	-----	---

ACCUMULATION OF OFFENSIVE REFUSE.

Number of removals.	2
---------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Number of convictions with regard to insanitary condition	...	...	...	...	Nil
Number of convictions obtained with regard to unsound food	...	...	...	...	Nil

